

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Xiaochun Zhu on October 1, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising a polypeptide of interest (POI) fused to a particle-associating portion of a large envelope polypeptide (L) of an avian hepadnavirus wherein the POI is not a pre-S region of an avian hepadnavirus and is located N-terminally to said particle-associating portion of the L polypeptide, and wherein the particle-associating portion consists of a fragment of the L polypeptide, wherein said fragment is (i) the S domain, (ii) the S domain minus the TM1 domain, or (iii) a portion of the L polypeptide which is downstream of TM1 and comprises at least TM2, the 5' cysteine loop between TM1 and TM2, and the sequence downstream of TM2.

14 -16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein the particle-

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associating portion of L polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9 or amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 9 (S domain of L).

18. (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein the particle-associating portion of L-polypeptide consists of amino acids 24 to 167 of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity thereto.
19. (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein said particle-associating portion thereof is encoded by the sequence of nucleotides as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 or having at least about 90% identity to SEQ ID NO: 8.
20. (Previously presented) The polypeptide according to claim 13 wherein said fusion protein further comprises a signal sequence.
21. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein the L polypeptide is a DHBV L polypeptide.

22-47. (Canceled)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICOLE KINSEY WHITE whose telephone number is (571)272-9943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol can be reached on (571) 272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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